

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

CHAPTER 2.

How to Use This File

This chapter serves as a guide for data users to both the CD-ROM and the technical documentation. Chapter 1 provides an introduction. Chapter 3 contains the data dictionary for the ASCII version of the microdata files and Chapter 4 contains the contents for the SAS version of the files.

Record Layout and Data Dictionary

The record layout, data dictionary, and/or contents (code book) describes the file and provides character locations for each variable. The components include a short mnemonic or variable name for use with software packages; begin and end position on the file; field size or variable length; and a description of the variable and the possible values for each variable. The dictionary is indexed by position and in alphabetical order.

There is also a machine readable data dictionary file on the CD-ROM. This dictionary is designed to be converted for use with various software packages. A user can produce hard copy documentation for extract files or labels for tabulations created; or can use the data dictionary file with software packages or user programs to automatically specify the layout of the microdata files.

Appendices

Detailed information on geographic areas is in appendix A followed by subject definitions in appendix B. Appendix C provides information about the sample design, estimation procedure and sources of sampling and non-sampling errors. Appendix D outlines the data collection and processing procedures. Facsimiles of the 1995 American Travel Survey questionnaire are in appendix E.

Estimation and Expansion Factors (Weights)

Estimation of trips may be made from tabulations of the microdata sample files by using the weights associated with that file; (e.g. for household trips, use the household trip weight and for person trips, use the person trip weight).

